



ecology and environment, inc.

111 WEST JACKSON BLVD., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604, TEL. 312-663-9415

International Specialists in the Environment

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 12, 1986
TO: File
FROM: Paul Andersen ^{PA}
SUBJECT: Michigan/R05-8505-10A/MI-00491
Ionia/Brown Corporation
MID0060 29136

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



389883

On August 5, 1986 an Ecology and Environment FIT team interviewed Joe Steward of the Brown Corporation and conducted a visual site inspection. No samples were collected. The company produces metal stampings for the automotive industry. The site was originally identified by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the form of a Preliminary Assessment submitted to the U.S. EPA. The following information was provided by Mr. Steward during the site inspection interview.

A ditch which runs through company property empties into a company owned swampy area. The site slope is between 0 and 3%. In the past, paint filters were laid out to dry on an unlined, undiked patch of ground adjacent to the ditch. Paint residue from the filters had been piled next to the ditch. This residue was sampled by the MDNR in July of 1978 and was found to contain chromium, copper, and lead. This pile of paint residue has since been removed.

In 1985, the company discontinued the practice of drying the filters on the ground and began to hang them on a rack to dry. Fifteen to twenty five filters per day are dried this way. During the FIT site inspection some residue was observed to have dripped off the filters onto the unlined, undiked area below the rack. The drying area is not fenced and there is no security guard present.

In the past, the company discharged iron phosphate based bonderizer tank overflow and compressor cooling water to the swampy area. A 1974 MDNR waste water survey of the discharge did not find any hazardous constituents but the practice was discontinued nonetheless. Now only non-contact cooling water is discharged to the swampy area.

220:6T